

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05511 01 OF 05 230630Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 ( ISO ) W  
-----053121 230710Z /12  
R 221117Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3192

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 5 TEHRAN 5511

LIMDIS

NEA/IRN ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHIM IR  
SUBJ: IRANIAN EVALUATION PLAN

REF: STATE 139759

1. THE FORMAT CONSTRAINTS AND DANGERS OF OVERSIMPLIFYING THE COMPLEX QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DRAFTING AN "IRAN EVALUATION PLAN" ARE MANIFEST. REFTEL IS THEREFORE ALL THE MORE ADMIRABLE A STATEMENT. OUR PURPOSE IN SUGGESTING THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS IS TO INCORPORATE RECENT CHANGES ON THIS FAST-BREAKING FRONT AND TO REFINE SOME OF THE BASIC POINTS ALREADY MADE. FOR CONVENIENCE SAKE AND READABILITY OUR THOUGHTS ARE FOLDED INTO THE FOLLOWING REPHRASED TEXT.

2. IRAN IS A RAPIDLY MODERNIZING COUNTRY IN WHICH THERE HAVE BEEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE LAST TWO DECADES, VAST SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES. BEING OVERCOME OR ALTERED IN THE PROCESS ARE ANCIENT TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS, CENTURIES OF POVERTY, WIDESPREAD ILLITERACY AND INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS TO PUBLIC ORDER AND NATIONAL SECURITY. OPPOSITION TO CHANGE FROM VESTED INTERESTS ON THE RIGHT AND ADVOCACY OF THE OVERTHROW OF THE REGIME FROM THE LEFT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05511 01 OF 05 230630Z

HAVE SHAPED IRAN'S ATTITUDE AND PRIORITIES TOWARD THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF HUMAN RIGHTS. EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE FULFILLMENT OF BASIC NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION. VALUES OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT HAVE BEEN PRESERVED AND ENHANCED. OTHER VALUES SUCH AS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH HAVE BEEN TAILORED TO THIS CLOTH.

ANY CONSIDERATION OF IRAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OR PROSPECT FOR THE FUTURE MUST BEGIN FROM THIS BASELINE.

3. RESPECT FOR INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON:

IRAN'S PENAL AND COURT SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES ARE MODELED ON FRENCH PRACTICES: (1) THE CIVILIAN SYSTEM, WHICH IS CONSIDERED GENERALLY COMMENDABLE BY OBSERVERS; AND (2) A SEPARATE MILITARY COURT SYSTEM AND RELATED POLICE ACTIVITIES WHICH HANDLE, AMONG OTHERS, CRIMES RELATED TO STATE SECURITY. IT IS IN SOME ASPECTS OF THE LATTER SYSTEM AS IT IS USED IN STATE SECURITY CASES WHERE IRAN DEVIATES FROM CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES--AND WHERE THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES RECENTLY.

A. ARREST, INITIAL CHARGES AND CONFINEMENT IN STATE SECURITY CASES: IRANIAN LAW COMBINES IN ONE ORGANIZATION --SAVAK (THE STATE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE)--THE DUTIES OF BOTH THE POLICE AND AN EXAMINING MAGISTRATE. IN SUCH CASES, SAVAK HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST ANYONE SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN A CRIME AGAINST STATE SECURITY, CARRY OUT AN INITIAL INVESTIGATION, AS IN THE FRENCH SYSTEM, AND DETERMINE INITIAL CHARGES. INDIVIDUALS CHARGED HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN HELD FOR UNSPECIFIED PERIODS UP TO SEVERAL MONTHS WHILE FURTHER INVESTIGATION CONTINUES. DURING THAT INITIAL DETENTION, COUNSEL HAS NOT BEEN PROVIDED FOR THE DETAINEE AND CONTACT WITH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05511 01 OF 05 230630Z

FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAS BEEN PROHIBITED OR SEVERELY RESTRICTED. LEGISLATION, TO SIGNIFICANTLY REVISE AND LIBERALIZE THIS SYSTEM WAS INTRODUCED IN THE IRANIAN PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 15. IT PROVIDES AMONG OTHER THINGS FOR ARRAIGNMENT OR RELEASE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARREST AND A 15-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR DEFENDANTS AND/OR THEIR ATTORNEY TO STUDY CHARGES PRIOR TO TRIAL. OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS LEGISLATION ARE NOTED UNDER PARA 2.A.1 C.

B. TORTURE: THE IRANIAN PENAL CODE PROHIBITS TORTURE AND PROVIDES SEVERE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATORS. WHILE THE GOI HAS NOT SAID SO PUBLICLY, WE HAVE REPORTS THAT SEVERAL RELATIVELY LOW-RANKING OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN TRIED AND CONVICTED FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS CODE IN THE PAST. THERE HAVE BEEN UNVERIFIED REPORTS OF SOME VINTAGE OF THE TORTURE OF INDIVIDUALS IMPLICATED IN STATE SECURITY CASES,

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05511 02 OF 05 230539Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /008 W  
-----052084 230558Z /14

R 221117Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3193

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 TEHRAN 5511

LIMDIS

NEA/IRN ONLY

SPECIFICALLY THOSE CHARGED WITH TERRORISM, BUT NO DIRECT EVIDENCE OF TORTURE BEING PRACTICE SYSTEMICALLY AS STATE-CONDONED POLICY. THE SHAH HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNSPECIFIED MEANS OF TORTURE MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PAST BUT HE HAS ALSO CLAIMED BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY THAT THIS IS NO LONGER THE CASE. WHILE ALLEGATIONS THAT TORTURE IS A FEATURE OF GOI PENAL PRACTICES CONTINUE, THEY COME PRINCIPALLY FROM IRANIAN OPPOSITIONISTS LIVING ABROAD OR THOSE WHO APPEAR TO BE INSPIRED BY FOREIGN INTERESTS, AND NONE HAVE BEEN RELATED TO OR SUBSTANTIATED BY RECENT EVENTS OR EVIDENCE.

C. TRIALS: THE GOI HAS JUST INTRODUCED LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD REFORM THE MILITARY COUR SYSTEM WITH RESPECT TO CIVILIANS TRIED FOR ANTI-SECURITY CRIMES. PREVIOUSLY COUNSEL FOR THE ACCUSED HAS BEEN PROVIDED EXCLUSIVELY FROM A LIST OF MILITARY LAWYERS-- THE NEW BILL WILL PROVIDE FOR SELECTION OF CIVILIAN COUNSEL. FROM LATE 1972 UNTIL EARLY 1977, NO FOREIGN OBSERVERS WERE ALLOWED TO ATTEND STATE SECURITY TRIALS; IN APRIL 1977 THE FIRST SUCH TRIAL IN FIVE YEARS WAS OPEN TO FOREIGN PRESS AND OBSERVERS AND THE NEW LEGISLATION PROVIDES FOR ALL SUCH TRIALS TO BE OPEN UNLESS THE TRIBUNAL ITSELF RULES FOR CLOSURE UPON THE MOTION OF  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05511 02 OF 05 230539Z

THE PROSECUTOR. DEFENDANTS AS WELL AS PROSECUTORS HAVE APPEAL RIGHTS TO MILITARY APPELLATE COURTS, BUT THESE DECISIONS ARE SUBJECT TO REVIEW BY THE CIVILIAN SUPREME COURT ONLY AFTER APPEAL TO THE SHAH. THE SHAH HAS FINAL REVIEW POWER OVER ALL MILITARY COURT DECISIONS AND HAS ON

OCCASION LESSENER SENTENCES.

4. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES:

A. FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, RELIGION AND ASSEMBLY: THERE IS A WIDE DEGREE OF FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION IN IRAN. IRANIAN LAW PROVIDES FOR RESTRICTION ONLY FOR THE ADVOCACY OF COMMUNIST IDEAS, ATTACKS ON THE CONSTITUTION AND SHAH, AND ADVOCACY OF VIOLENCE. IN PRACTICE, EVEN PRIVATE CRITICISM OF THE SHAH AND CONSTITUTION OCCUR. THERE IS A STATUTORY BASIS FOR PRESS CENSORSHIP, BUT FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS OF MANY VIEWPOINTS, INCLUDING SOME SHARPLY CRITICAL OF IRAN AND THE SHAH, ARE WIDELY SOLD AND READ. GOVERNMENT POLICY IS DISCUSSED AND CRITICIZED IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. THE SHIA SECT OF ISLAM PREDOMINATES IN IRAN, BUT THE COUNTRY IS PROUD AND SUPPORTIVE OF ITS LONG HISTORY OF RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE WHICH PERMITS RELIGIOUS MINORITIES TO PRACTICE THEIR FAITH AND PARTICIPATE FULLY IN CIVIL LIFE. RESTRICTIONS ON THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY EXIST, BUT ARE APPLIED ONLY TO THOSE WHO ADVOCATE SUBVERSION, VIOLENCE, OR COMMUNIST DOCTRINES.

B. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT: IRANIANS ENJOY EXTENSIVE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN IRAN AND ABROAD. THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE THOSE RESTRICTED JUDICIALLY AS A RESULT OF CONVICTION FOR CRIMES OF CORRUPTION OR ANTI-SECURITY ACTIVITIES (THOSE PERSONS NOW NUMBER BETWEEN 10 AND 29); OR THE PROVISION, ROOTED IN ISLAMIC LAW, THAT A WIFE MUST HAVE HER HUSBAND'S PERMISSION TO TRAVEL ABROAD. THIS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05511 02 OF 05 230539Z

LATTER RESTRICTION IS BEING ATTACKED IN PARLIAMENT AND HAS BEEN PARTIALLY MODIFIED OVER THE PAST YEAR.

C. DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES: IRAN HAS ONE LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY (RESURGENCE) WHICH ENCOMPASSES ALL CITIZENS AND A PARLIAMENT CHOSEN BY DIRECT POPULAR VOTE. DECISION-MAKING STILL CENTERS AROUND THE SHAH BUT THERE IS EXTENSIVE AND CRITICAL DEBATE WITHIN THE RESURGENCE PARTY AND PRIVATE GROUPS REGARDING IRAN'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHOICES. ROYAL COMMISSIONS DIRECTLY CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE, AND THE PRESS IS ATTENTIVE TO PROBLEMS OF WASTE AND CORRUPTION. OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS, DECENTRALIZATION HAS BEGUN TO PASS MODEST DECISION MAKING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATING POWERS TO PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. PROVINCIAL COUNCILS ARE NOT RETICENT IN THEIR COMMENTS ON LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTCOMINGS.

5. RECENT TRENDS IN FULFILLING BASIC NEEDS:  
MEETING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF IRANIANS HAS BEEN EMPHASIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES,

PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SHAH GAINED SECURE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE EARLY 1960S AND INSTITUTED MAJOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND A REFORM PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05511 03 OF 05 230613Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /008 W  
-----052437 230621Z /14

R 221117Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3194

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 5 TEHRAN 5511

LIMDIS

NEA/IRN ONLY

IRAN HAS HAD CAREFULLY-STRUCTURED FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS SINCE THE LATE 1940S, BUT IT HAS BEEN ONLY SINCE THE 1973 INCREASE IN OIL PRICES THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO IMPLEMENT ITS PLANS. ROUGHLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT'S TOTAL SPENDING IN THE PERIOD 1973-78 CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS OUTLAY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS.

THE SHAH-PEOPLE REVOLUTION HAS COVERED MANY FIELDS, A MAJOR LAND DISTRIBUTION AND REFORM PROGRAM, INITIATED IN THE EARLY 1960S, ENDED IRAN'S TRADITIONAL FEUDALISM AND BENEFICAILLY AFFECTED AT LEAST A THIRD OF THE POPULATION DIRECTLY AND PERHAPS ANOTHER 30 PERCENT INDIRECTLY. AN EARLY REFORM INVOLVED A PROFIT-SHARING SCHEME FOR WORKERS AND THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE PROGRAM COVERS A STOCK DIVESTITURE SYSTEM TO PASS 49 PERCENT OF THE OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIES TO WORKERS AND FARMERS. A LITERACY CORPS HAS HELPED OVER TWO MILLION IRANIANS LEARN TO READ AND WRITE. A SIMILAR PROGRAM RELATED TO HEALTH HAS HELPED MOVE THE SERVICES OF DOCTORS AND NURSES OUT INTO RURAL AREAS. DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS, LIFE EXPECTANCY HAS INCREASED FROM 41 TO 50 YEARS. AN EXTENSION AND DEVELOPMENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05511 03 OF 05 230613Z

CORPS GIVES BASIC TECHNICAL ADVICE TO THE RURAL POOR. HOUSES OF EQUITY HAVE BEEN FORMED IN MANY VILLAGES TO PROVIDE PROMPT COURT SERVICE IN MINOR CASES COVERING A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECT.

MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS IN IRAN AS ELSEWHERE BUT THE SIGNIFICANT FACT IS THAT ACHIEVING THAT GOAL IS A MAJOR COMMITMENT OF THE SHAH AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

6. CORRUPTION:

THE SHAH HAS INITIATED A NUMBER OF MEASURES TO CUT WASTE AND CORRUPTION. SENIOR OFFICIALS INCLUDING THE COMMANDER OF THE IRANIAN NAVY HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE AND A NUMBER OF NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF INDUSTRY AND GOVT HAVE BEEN JAILED. THIS FLIES IN THE FACE OF TRADITION AND PREVIOUSLY COMMON OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN CONTRACTING ARRANGEMENTS. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN IS EXEMPLIFIED BY ITS STRONG SUPPORT OF OUR UN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CORRUPTION AS WELL AS THE JUST-SIGNED BILATERAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IRAN AND THE US ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATED TO POSSIBLE CORRUPTION.

7. GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPLANATIONS:

THE GOVT OF IRAN ACCEPTS FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THE ABOVE GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES. ITS JUSTIFICATION FOR THOSE RELATED TO STATE SECURITY CRIMES IS SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD: IRAN IS BESET BY A SMALL, BUT DANGEROUS GROUP OF TERRORISTS; ITS MEMBERS HAVE CARRIED OUT SERIOUSLY DESTRUCTIVE ACTS INVOLVING THE MURDER OF SENIOR IRANIAN OFFICIALS PLUS 150 OTHER OFFICIALS AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS AND SIX AMERICANS. THE TERRORISTS REMAIN INTENT ON CONTINUING SUCH A CAMPAIGN, AND VIGILANCE IN PROTECTING STATE AUTHORITY AND CITIZEN LIVES AGAINST THIS CLEAR AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05511 03 OF 05 230613Z

PRESENT DANGER IS THE PRUDENT COURSE. ALSO, IRAN HAS SUFFERED TWICE IN THIS CENTURY FROM RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF PARTS OF IRAN AND THE IRANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY NEARLY SUCCEEDED IN GAINING CONTROL OF THE GOVT IN THE EARLY 1950S. AS A RESULT OF THAT HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE AND CONTINUED CONCERN OVER COMMUNIST SUBVERSION, ADVOCACY OF COMMUNISM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05511 04 OF 05 230558Z

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /008 W

-----052232 230601Z /14

R 221117Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 TEHRAN 5511

LIMDIS

NEA/IRN ONLY

IS ILLEGAL AS AN ACT AGAINST STATE SECURITY.

8. OUTSIDE INVESTIGATIONS:

IN 1975, THE UN COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOUND NO ACTION CALLED FOR IN IRAN'S CASE. IN 1976 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF JOURNALISTS (ICJ) ISSUED REPORTS ON THE IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. ALTHOUGH THE GOI COOPERATED USEFULLY WITH THE ICJ, IN GENERAL IT HAS NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING TO SUCH GROUPS AND SPECIFICALLY DEVELOPED AN ANTIPATHY TOWARD AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BECAUSE OF THAT ORGANIZATION'S EXAGGERATED AND OFTEN INCORRECT REPORTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN. SINCE LATE 1976 THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN IRANIAN COOPERATION WITH RESPONSIBLE OUTSIDERS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, A SEMI-PRIVATE IRANIAN GROUP, HAS ALSO NOTED INCREASED IRANIAN INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR ITS WORK. THE SHAH HAS TALKED WITH VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS WITH CONNECTIONS TO OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS. FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ATTENDED A STATE SECURITY TRIAL IN APRIL AND INTERVIEWED POLITICAL PRISONERS. THE GOI HAS PERMITTED AN INTERNATIONAL RED CREOSS TEAM TO INSPECT IRANIAN PRISONS FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT THIS INCREASED POLICY OF OPENNESS WILL CONTINUE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05511 04 OF 05 230558Z

9. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

US OBJECTIVE AND COURSE OF ACTION; CONCURRENT WITH THE

NEW EMPHASIS IN US FOREIGN POLICY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN AN INCREASING AWARENESS BY IRANIAN LEADERS THAT IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE US, THE IRANIAN HUMAN RIGHTS IMAGE HAS BEEN UNSATISFACTORY. ALTHOUGH NETTLED BY WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE GROSS DISTORTIONS OF THE FACTS, PARTICULARLY BY GROUPS THEY BELIEVE ARE RECEIVING OUTSIDE SUPPORT, THEY HAVE BEGUN TO TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE IRAN'S IMAGE BY DISSEMINATING MORE INFORMATION ON IRAN'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND BY INSTITUTING CHANGES IN THE JUDICIAL PROCESSES FOR ANTI-SECURITY CRIMES. ON JUNE 15, LEGISLATION WAS PROPOSED WHICH, IF PASSED, WILL LIBERALIZE MILITARY COURT PROCEDURES AND BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD MEETING INTERNATIONAL EXPECTATIONS REGARDING IRANIAN COMPLIANCE WITH THE UN COVENANT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IRAN'S SECURITY SITUATION HAS IMPROVED--ALTHOUGH TERRORIST GROUPS RETAIN THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT ASSASSINATIONS, BANK ROBBERIES AND OTHER CRIMES THREATENING PUBLIC AND ORDER.

THE BASIC US APPROACH SHOULD BE TO REINFORCE AND SUPPORT THE CURRENT MOOD IN IRAN, AND ENCOURAGE THE GOI TO CONTINUE IN THE DIRECTION IT IS GOING. FOR SOME TIME TO COME WE SHOULD URGE IMPROVEMENT OF PROCEDURES IN HANDLING ANTI-SECURITY CRIMES SO THAT THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED WILL BE BETTER PROTECTED.

WE SHOULD SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE GOI;

--TO EXPAND ITS RECENT SIGNIFICANTLY MORE OPEN APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05511 04 OF 05 230558Z

STATE SECURITY TRAILS, AMNESTIES, AND OUTSIDE CONTACTS WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS.

--TO CONTINUE AND INCREASE IRANIAN CONTACTS WITH RESPONSIBLE FOREIGNERS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

--TO REMAIN RECEPTIVE AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE MOST SENIOR, TO A FRANK, UNDERSTANDING SHARING OF VIEWS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING THOSE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS THEIR RELEVANCE TO IRAN.

--TO INSURE PRISONERS ARE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COVENANT. THE USG SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE GOI TO PURSUE ITS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS TO MODIFY JUDICIAL PRACTICES RELATED TO SPECIFIC CONCERNS ABOUT RESPECT FOR THE PERSON.

SPECIFICALLY, WE WILL ENCOURAGE THE GOI;

--TO CONFIRM THE BREAK IN THE LINK BETWEEN A DUAL



ROLE FOR SAVAK OFFICERS AS POLICE/PROSECUTORS ON  
ONE HAND AND EXAMINING MAGISTRATES ON THE OTHER.  
--TO ALLOW APPEALS OF MILITARY COURT DECISIONS TO THE  
CIVILIAN SUPREME COURT AUTOMATICALLY RATHER THAN  
WITH PRIOR APPROVAL.  
--TO MAINTAIN FREEDOM OF SELECTION OF CIVILIAN  
COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THOSE CHARGED WITH STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05511 05 OF 05 230551Z  
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /008 W  
-----052164 230554Z /12

R 221117Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3196

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 5 OF 5 TEHRAN 5511

LIMDIS

NEA/IRN ONLY

SECURITY OFFENSES.

--TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. OBJECTIVES ON THE UN HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION, INCLUDING BROADENING THE SCOPE  
OF THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE.

TO SUPPORT THESE OBJECTIVES, THE FOLLOWING USG ACTIONS  
SHOULD BE TAKEN;

--CONTINUE THE HIGH PRIORITY GIVEN BY THE EMBASSY  
STAFF TO HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS.

--DISCUSS ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS U.S. VIEWS  
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS AND SELECTED ITEMS FROM  
THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES LIST WITH ALL EFFECTIVE  
GOI LEVELS AS WELL AS IMPORTANT IRANIAN OPINION  
MAKERS.

--IN THESE BILATERAL EXCHANGES, COMMENT FAVORABLY  
ON SIGNIFICANT GOI POLICY IMPROVEMENTS RELATED  
TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

--MEET WITH PRIVATE U.S. ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIV\*DUALS  
INTERESTED IN IRAN TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION, GIVE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05511 05 OF 05 230551Z

GUIDANCE RELATED TO THE ABOVE U.S. OBJECTIVES AND  
ENCOURAGE A BALANCED AND FACTUAL APPROACH TO  
PRIVATE EFFORTS RELATED TO IRAN.

10. IRANIAN REACTION:

IN IRAN, OFFICIAL, PUBLIC REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS  
AND TO U.S. POLICY ON THE SUBJECT HAS GENERALLY FOLLOWED TWO  
LINES, ONE CONCEPTUAL, ON PRACTICAL.

IRAN'S CONCEPTUAL APPROACH HAS STRESSED THE GOI'S  
ATTENTION TO MEE IRAN'S "HUMAN NEEDS" AND THE PROGRESS  
IRAN HAS MADE IN THE BROADER AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS  
OPPOSED TO, AND AHEAD OF, THE NARROW, ANGLO-SAXON FOCUS ON  
CIVIL/JUDICIAL RIGHTS. THIS HAS GENERALLY BEEN ACCOMPANIED  
BY CRITICISM OF WESTERN "LIBERALITY" WHEREIN PUBLIC ORDER  
IS PORTRAYED AS SO WEAK THAT IRANIANS AS WELL AS OTHERS ARE  
MUGGED AND MURDERED ON THE STREETS AND/OR INTRODUCED TO  
DRUGS, ETC. THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY STRESS ON ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL RIGHTS ON INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING UN  
ISSUES, AS OPPOSED TO THE POLITICAL. THE U.S. COMES UNDER  
SPORADIC FIRE FOR HAVING FAILED TO RATIFY THE UN COVENANTS  
ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS.

AT THE MORE PRACTICAL LEVEL, IRAN'S REACTION (WITHOUT  
MAKING ANY CONNECTION TO U.S. POLICIES ON THE SUBJECT) HAS  
INCLUDED MAKING SOME SIGNIFICANT INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN  
GOVERNMENTAL PRACTICES RELATED TO RESPECT FOR THE INTEGRITY  
OF THE PERSON AND TO A GENERALLY MORE OPEN APPROACH TO THE  
ENTIRE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. MOST OF THESE CHANGES ARE  
CONSISTENT WITH THE VIEWS OF VARIOUS GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL  
IRANIANS WHO HAVE ADVOCATED THEM PRIVATELY TO THE GOVERNMENT.  
SOME OF THESE CHANGES HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS SECTIONS.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 05511 05 OF 05 230551Z

THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS BY  
THE SHAH, THE QUEEN, THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHERS UNDER-  
LINING THE SECURITY DANGER FACED BY THE COUNTRY AND CONCLUDING  
THAT THE DANGERS OFFERED BY THE TERRORIST GROUPS CANNOT  
BE HANDLED EFFECTIVELY BY AN EXCESSIVE CONCERN FOR LEGAL  
NICETIES, PARTICULARLY WHEN EVIDENCE HAS APPEARED STRONGLY

POINTING TO OUTSIDE SUPPORT FOR THESE GROUPS.

THESE REACTIONS AMOUNT TO A POSITIVE BALANCE AS FAR AS U.S. OBJECTIVES ARE CONCERNED AND INDICATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE APPROACH THE U.S. HAS SO FAR PURSUED.

1. U.S. INTERESTS IN IRAN:

CLOSE U.S.-IRANIAN COOPERATION HAS EXISTED FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS. IT NOW COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING SUCH KEY ONES AS PETROLEUM AFFAIRS, ARMS TRANSFERS, COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION, THE DETERRENCE OF SOVIET GOALS AND U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. THE SUM OF THOSE AND OTHER U.S. INTERESTS MAKES THE U.S.-IRANIAN RELATIONSHIP OF MAJOR REGIONAL IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S. U.S. ACTIONS RELATED TO HUMAN RIGHTS MUST BE CARRIED OUT WITH THOSE BROAD INTERESTS IN MIND.

IRANIANS ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE TO FOREIGN "INTERFERENCE" FOR SOLID HISTORIC REASONS RELATED TO THE PRESENCE OF BRITISH AND RUSSIAN AGENTS IN IRAN BEGINNING OVER 100 YEARS AGO AND EXTENDING TO THE WARTIME AND POST-WAR RUSSIAN OCCUPATION OF AZERBAIJAN AND NORTHERN IRAN. TOO AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES COULD QUICKLY MULLIFY ENCOURAGING IRANIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND LEAD TO A REDUCTION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND GENERAL COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. THIS MIGHT INVOLVE UNFAVORABLE ACTION INVOLVING THE PETROLEUM INTERESTS OF AMERICA AND ITS MAJOR ALLIES, REDUCTION OF IRAN'S FRUITFUL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO REGIONAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 TEHRAN 05511 05 OF 05 230551Z

POLITICAL STABILITY AND SECURITY, AND REDUCTION OF THE LEVEL OF IMPORTANT JOINT ACTIVITIES IN IRAN.

U.S. POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN DURING RECENT MONTHS HAS BEEN COMPOSED OF QUIET DIALOGUE RELATED TO BROAD U.S. POLICY AND SPECIFIC GOI ACTIVITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF A SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE EVOLVING IRANIAN SITUATION. ITS SUCCESSES CLEARLY INDICATE THAT IT HAS BEEN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD U.S. OBJECTIVES.

SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TEHRAN05511  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770224-0230  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEHRAN  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770629/aaaaazjn.tel  
**Line Count:** 593  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1b6a6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 11  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 139759  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2063480  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRANIAN EVALUATION PLAN  
**TAGS:** SHUM, IR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1b6a6078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009